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31 December 1979

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with [REDACTED] (EXSUBCOM)

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[REDACTED] of EXSUBCOM at CHB on 21 December 1979. [REDACTED] explained some of the history of the National Tasking Plan in answering a question on the distinction between national first phase exploitation (as tasked by EXSUBCOM) and direct support exploitation (as tasked by DIA). Readouts in direct support of the U&S Commands generally contained more details than those done in response to national tasking. He added that, in his opinion, the use of the phrase "first phase direct support" was a poor choice of words to describe the kind of exploitation that the U&S Commands are performing on images received over the DDS. [REDACTED]

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When asked his reaction to a proposal that the U&S Commands be given national responsibility for routine first phase readout on key targets in their areas of interest, he objected strongly and cited four reasons:

- 1) the unproven reliability of DDS
- 2) a fear that national requirements would not be satisfied
- 3) the absence of a standard nomenclature for PI reporting and
- 4) concern that the PI's with expertise in reading out certain targets would be inaccessible to the NCA.

In further discussion, it was pointed out that NPIC could serve as a back-up to the U&S Commands' exploitation effort and that during a crisis multiple exploitation was probably both inevitable and desirable.

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[REDACTED] mentioned that the photointerpreters in the Commands are using the national EEI list to guide their exploitation and noted that the lack of uniform standards is not an insurmountable problem. None of these points swayed [REDACTED] from his opposition to decentralizing first phase exploitation. [REDACTED]

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DIA review(s) completed.

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